

EDUCATION, IRELAND.



The ANNUAL REPORT of the COMMISSIONERS of EDUCATION in *Ireland*,
for the Year 1841.

Pursuant to Act of Parliament, 53 Geo. 3, c. 107, s. 8.

TO HIS EXCELLENCY THOMAS PHILIP, EARL DE GREY,
LORD LIEUTENANT-GENERAL
AND GENERAL GOVERNOR OF IRELAND, &c. &c. &c.

WE, the Commissioners of Education in Ireland, constituted and appointed by an Act of Parliament made in the 53d year of the reign of his late Majesty King George the Third, do, in obedience thereunto, respectfully submit to your Excellency a general Report of the Proceedings of the Board since their last Report.

The duties which the Commissioners have been called on to perform during the past year have been of a character so nearly similar to those adverted to in our last Reports, that, with some exceptions hereafter to be stated, we have been principally occupied in carrying on the regular superintendence of the different Royal Schools and the estates attached thereto, as well as of the different Schools of private endowment subject to our control; which, although not affording much variety of matter as a subject for report, requires our constant attention and care.

At the Royal School-houses of Armagh, Banagher, Cavan, Dungannon, Enniskillen, and Raphoe, and also at those Schools of private foundation whose funds have been placed under our control, we have caused to be executed, under our superintendence and direction, such alterations and repairs as appeared to us to have become necessary, either for the protection and improvement of the several buildings, or in consequence of the injuries sustained by them from the severity of the storms of the past winter.

The annual returns furnished to us by the masters of the different Schools of public and private foundation exhibit a very extensive and increasing course of education, both classical and scientific; and it having appeared right to the Board to discourage as much as possible the system of corporal punishments, we issued to the different masters a circular letter, stating our opinion upon this subject; and we have the satisfaction to inform your Excellency that the sentiments therein contained have been thoroughly concurred in by the masters generally, whilst from none have we received any intimation of an opinion differing from that expressed by us.

The last Report made to us by the Court of Examiners in the University of the candidates for the exhibitions and prizes granted by this Board, after having referred in terms of commendation to the proficiency and answering of the different candidates who presented themselves for examination, contained a recommendation that in future the examination in History should be conducted publicly, *visd voce*, in the University, and on a more extended scale than has hitherto been customary; which recommendation we have, with the concurrence of the governing body of the University, ordered to be hereafter carried into effect. And we have notified to the masters of the different Schools to which those exhibitions and prizes are respectively attached, our directions upon this subject.

And, acting upon the return of the answering made, we have elected the following persons to the exhibitions and prizes respectively attached to their names; viz.

Armagh, Leonard Dobbyn, to an exhibition of 50*l.* for five years.

Dungannon, Robert Mason, to an exhibition of 30*l.* for five years.

Enniskillen, Richard Kirkpatrick, to an exhibition of 50*l.* for five years.

Ronald M'Donnell, to an exhibition of 30*l.* for five years.

Middleton, Richard Reid, a prize of 30*l.*

William Vowell, a prize of 20*l.*

Carrying out also the resolution adopted by us last year, we have in several instances augmented the amount of the exhibitions of those students who during the past year have appeared to us, in consequence of a distinguished course in the University, to be worthy of such promotion.

At the Royal Schools nothing particularly calling for special notice to your Excellency has occurred since our last Report. That at Enniskillen, however, continues to be the most numerously attended; the very extensive School-house, upon the enlargement and improvement of which considerable sums of money have within the last few years been expended by us, being now completely occupied.

At Armagh a large plot of ground, immediately adjoining the School-house, having been offered for sale, and it having been stated to us that it was likely that it would be purchased for building ground, which, from its proximity to the School-house, would be most injurious to the establishment, and there being a great want of land for the use of the School, we have, at the suggestion of the master, and on the recommendation of his Grace the Lord Primate, become purchasers of the interest in the lease, and now hold the land for the benefit of the School at a moderate rent.

The estates attached to the Schools have claimed much of our attention, and we have endeavoured to ameliorate the condition of the tenantry located thereon, by enlarging their farms where it has been found practicable; by (in the case of industrious and improving tenants) granting rewards, making small loans to be repaid by instalments; and also by allowances of lime to those tenants whose means would not enable them to purchase it.

And we have the gratification to inform your Excellency, that the Reports made to us by our local agents show, that very beneficial results, particularly on the Dungannon Estate, have been produced by such a course.

The Armagh School Estate was, during the last summer, inspected by our Secretary, accompanied by our Agent; and the statement made to us of the respectable condition of the tenantry, as well as of the neatness and comfort of their habitations generally, was of a most satisfactory character.

The School established by us, for the benefit and at the urgent solicitation of those residing on this estate, is most numerously attended, and is reported to us to be very well conducted under the control of its present master and mistress.

In the case of Ballyroan School, one of private endowment, we have been enabled to carry out our intention of surrendering our interest in the lease of an old house, rented in the town, for the use of the second master; and, instead thereof, we have undertaken to erect, on the ground attached to the School, a small house suitable for that purpose.

And we further beg to state to your Excellency, that since our last Report we have been enabled to bring to a conclusion the visitation of Lifford School, in consequence of the resignation of his office by the master, on whom the visitation was held.

At Eyre Court, the School of which is a private endowment, the house had fallen into an almost ruinous state; and the mastership having become vacant some years ago, we retained the master's salary, with which, and the produce of some funds to the credit of that School, now in our hands, we have undertaken to restore the house to a habitable condition; and the architect employed by us to superintend the works, has stated the repairs to be in a state of great forwardness; and we trust to be enabled soon to call upon the patrons to appoint a master, and thus to re-establish in that district a School in conformity with the intentions of the founder.

And

And we beg to notify to your Excellency, that in the case of the Diocesan Schools the following changes have taken place; viz., the late master of Elphin Diocesan School having died, and the master of Meath and Ardagh District School, and of Kildare School, having respectively resigned their situations, successors have been appointed to the two former situations; but the latter vacancy, which is of very recent occurrence, has not as yet been filled up by the Bishop of the diocese, who is the patron of the School.

In the case of Clonmel School, we have, acting under the advice of the principal law officer of the Crown, let, for one year, to the tenant in possession, the lands which form the endowment of the School, at the termination of which period we purpose, with the assistance of an agent, undertaking the management of this estate, in a manner similar to that acted upon by us with regard to the other estates under our care.

And we have to state to your Excellency, that, since the date of our last Report, we have paid to the Paymaster of Civil Services in Ireland a sum of 77*l.* 0*s.* 7*d.*, being the twelfth regular annual instalment in repayment of the advance made by Government for repairs executed at Raphoe Royal School.

All which we respectfully submit to your Excellency as our Report.

(signed) JOHN G. ARMAGH. (L. S.)
 R^d DUBLIN. (L. S.)
 CHARLES MEATH. (L. S.)
 CHARLES KILDARE. (L. S.)
 LOUIS PERRIN. (L. S.)
 FRANC. SADLEIR. (L. S.)
 C. R. ELRINGTON. (L. S.)
 JAMES WILSON. (L. S.)
 JOHN RADCLIFF. (L. S.)

Wm Cotter Kyle, LL.D.,
 Secretary.

8, Clare-street, 25 March 1842.

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THE ANNUAL REPORT of the Commissioners
of Education in Ireland, for the Year 1844

Presented to both Houses of Parliament, 20 Dec. 1844, A.D.

Ordered by the House of Commons, to be Printed,
at the Expence of the Public.

1845.

Under 1 no.